

Page 18, replace Table 1, which begins at line 10, with:

Table 1: Oligonucleotides employed in this study

Oligo-nucleotide	Position	Strand	Nucleotide Sequence
OLF1bA-1	AS 151-156 (LcrD)	+	ATGCCTCGAGGTCGAAAAGCAAGATG (SEQ ID NO:1)
OLF1bA-2	AS 189-195 (LcrD)	-	GAAATCTTCATACTGGCAGCTCCAGTC (SEQ ID NO:2)
OLF1bA-7	515-534	+	CGGGATCCGTGGTTACTAATGGTTCTAC (SEQ ID NO:4)
OLF1bA-8	2092-2111	-	CGGGATCCTCATGGCCTCTTCAGAGACC (SEQ ID NO:5)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 57, 58, and 60.

Please amend claims 43-44, 49-50, 55-56, and 59 to read as follows²:

43. A method for the *in vitro* detection of antibodies against *H. pylori* in a sample of biological fluid from a patient, wherein the method comprises:

- bringing the sample into contact with an *H. pylori* bacterial strain having an aflagellate phenotype resulting from a mutation in the *flbA* gene of said *H. pylori* bacterial strain, wherein said *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* bacterial strain no longer expresses the FlaA and FlaB proteins; and
- detecting an immunological reaction between the bacterial strain and antibodies directed against *H. pylori* and which are present in the sample.

44. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* strain also does not express the hook protein (or anchoring protein) of the flagellum of *H. pylori*.

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2. A "marked-up" version of the amendments being made is presented in an Appendix to this Preliminary Amendment.

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49. A method for the *in vitro* detection of antibodies against *H. pylori* in a sample of biological fluid from a patient, wherein the method comprises:

- a) bringing the sample into contact with a bacterial extract from an *H. pylori* bacterial strain having an aflagellate phenotype resulting from a mutation in the *flbA* gene of said *H. pylori* bacterial strain, wherein, said *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* bacterial strain no longer expresses the FlaA and FlaB proteins; and
- b) detecting an immunological reaction between the bacterial strain and antibodies directed against *H. pylori* and which are present in the sample.

50. The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* strain also does not express the hook protein (or anchoring protein) of the flagellum of *H. pylori*.

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55. The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the bacterial extract is a total bacterial extract.

56. The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the bacterial extract is a n-octyl glucoside extract.

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59. The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the bacterial extract is obtained after extracting with PBS or glycine.

Please add new claims 62-65 as follows:

62. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* bacterial strain also lacks the flagellum sheath.

63. The method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* strain also does not express the hook protein (or anchoring protein) of the flagellum of *H. pylori*.

64. The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* bacterial strain also lacks the flagellum sheath.

65. The method as claimed in claim 64, wherein the *flbA* mutant *H. pylori* strain also does not express the hook protein (or anchoring protein) of the flagellum of *H. pylori*.

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended so that the selective underlining of certain nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, and SEQ ID NO:5, as shown at page 6, is used throughout. Specifically, SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 at page 3, and SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, and SEQ ID NO:5, in Table 1, at page 18, have been amended so that the underlining of selected nucleotides is as indicated at page 6.

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